

January 28, 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Milford, Delaware 19963



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Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-12:00pm, Monday–Friday

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors

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## **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

### **10:00 am service**

*You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at [www.rlcmilford.com/connect](http://www.rlcmilford.com/connect). Share these with your friends and family so we can touch more lives with God's Word!*

Please silence cell phones before worship begins. Thank you!

### **Welcome to Reformation!**

We are especially glad to welcome visitors to worship. We hope you experience God's love for you this morning! Visitors are invited to sign the pew pads so we can be in touch with you.

***We have hearing assistance devices available. Please ask an Usher if you would like to use one to help with hearing the service.***

### **Holy Communion**

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the usher's directions to come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the server. Those who do not yet receive Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Lutherans believe that in Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, the renewal of our faith, and the strengthening of our Christian community. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

### **Prayer Requests**

To add someone to the prayers of the Church, please write their name on the list behind the altar.

***"Being transformed by Jesus so that, through us,  
he is transforming the world."***

Reformation's Mission is to:

**Welcome people to faith. Make disciples. Live what we believe.**

# Gathering

*\* indicates the congregation is invited to stand, as able*

## Announcements

### Prelude

#### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God... **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** God of mercy and life,

**C: we confess that we have turned from you and have fallen under the deadly power of sin. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have broken our fellowship with you and with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, and set us free from sin and death, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, both now and forever, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of Almighty God... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**      "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"      **No. 611**

#### **\*Apostolic Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**      "He is Exalted"      Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray...

**C:** Amen.

### **Children's Sermon**

## **Word**

### **First Reading**

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>[Moses said,] "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

<sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 111** (read in unison)

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”**

Traditional Melody

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

**\*Gospel****Mark 2:1-12****P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 2nd chapter.**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." <sup>12</sup>And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.**C: Praise to you, O Christ.****Sermon**

Pastor Eric W. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

**No.655****\*Prayers of Intercession****A:** Lord, in your mercy,**C: Hear our prayer.****\*The Lord's Prayer****Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,****Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.****Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **Meal**

### **\*Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Collection of the Offering**

**Musical Offering**      “Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”      (Choir)

**\*Offertory**      “Shout to the Lord”      **No. 821**

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

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### **\*Offertory Prayer**

**A:** Let us pray:

**C:** **God of mercy and goodness, your generosity sustains all of  
creation. Accept what we have gathered to be used for the work of**

**your Kingdom. As we come to your table, fill us with your love, so that we might be signs of your presence in a world hungry for grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Proper Preface**

**\*“Holy, Holy”**

Jimmy Owens

Holy holy, holy holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty.

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love.

Holy holy, holy holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit.

And we lift our voice before you as a token of our love.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

**\*The Words of Institution**

**“Spirit Song”**

John Wimber

O, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,

Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.

Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove,

Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Refrain:* Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O, come and sing this song with gladness

as your hearts are filled with joy,

Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.

O, give him all your tears and sadness,

give him all your years of pain,

And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. *(Refrain)*



## **The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail**

Communion Hymns: #612, "Healer of Our Every Ill;" #886, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing;" #728, "Blest Are They;" #522 "As We Gather at Your Table"

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Sending Hymn**

"Jesus Shall Reign"

**No. 434**

### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## **Postlude**

### **SERVING TODAY**

#### **January 28**

**10:00**

Ushers

Ed Huey & Noah McDougall

Lay Reader

Matt Pencek

Worship Assistant

Ken Newell

Acolyte

Connor Pencek

Healing Prayer

Diane Massey

Altar Guild

Pam Curnock & Janice Piatkowski

Live Stream Operators

Scott Rainville & Emerick Miller

Fellowship Host

Melissa Miller & Mary Lu Wilson (Brunch)

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

<b>February 4</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
Usher	Ron Semmont	David Krantz
Lay Reader	Stacey Himler	Dianna Smith
Worship Assistant	Trish Boyer	Todd Hannah
Acolyte		Soren Evers
Healing Prayer	Diane Massey	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Carol Whyte	Debbie Bryant-Davis
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel & Isabella Valentine	
Fellowship Host	Sandi & Larry Shea	

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Brunch & Annual Meeting
Thursday	1:00 pm	WELCA (in Annex)
	7:00 pm	Choir
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:45 am	Fellowship & Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (in Annex)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY we have one worship service followed by Brunch (provided by the Fellowship Committee) and our Annual Congregational Meeting!** Please plan to attend to celebrate God's work among us in 2023, elect a new Church Council member, and look ahead to Reformation's ministry in 2024.

**Reformation youth performing in a play at the Milton Theater!** Lexi Caccamise will be performing in "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory," a student production, at the Milton Theater from Jan. 25-28. There are 2 p.m. matinees and 7 p.m. evening performances. Tickets and more details are available at [www.miltontheater.com](http://www.miltontheater.com). Come out to support Lexi and enjoy a night of local theater!

**Reformation's end-of-year budget report** is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

**The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will meet on Thursday, February 1st at 1:00 PM at the Church Annex. All women of the church are welcome! Start out the new year by joining us for Bible study, business, and fellowship. We welcome new members!

**Bring Canned Food for our "Souper Bowl"**— The Christian Service Committee will be holding the annual Souper Bowl on February 11. There will be a competition between the two teams. Donate a canned/prepackaged food item (pop top cans preferred) and place the item in your team's bin. **Each team will receive one point for each item donated. 3 points will be given for Chunky soup and cans of pasta!** The team with the most points will be the winner of the Souper Bowl. The items will be donated to the Milford Community Food Pantry.

**The New ROMEO ("Retired Old Men Eating Out") Club Invites you!** Come join us for lunch, every second Friday of the month, at noon at the Palace Restaurant in Milford. Our first lunch will be February 9th. Space is limited. Just a couple of ground rules: it's Dutch treat, and no discussion of politics! Contact Maynard Gregory (302-381-4240) for more information.

**The Next Skillshare Event is February 10!** You are invited to come to a "drop-in" Skillshare event in Reformation's Annex on Saturday, February 10 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. During this Skillshare event, you can come and learn how to sew a simple project, or bring clothes that need to be mended, and others will help you learn sewing skills. Meanwhile, you can also drop in with your cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other devices and get help with your questions from our youth and adults who are well-versed in technology. Invite a friend to come with you! Contact Pastor Paige Evers with questions ([pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net)).

**Rise Against Hunger Serving Opportunity on March 9:** On Saturday, March 9, you're invited to join other Reformation friends in serving at a meal-packing event at Sussex Central High School with the organization, Rise Against Hunger. There will be an assembly line for packing non-perishable food into boxes to be shipped around the world, wherever people are hungry and need to be fed. Please join us and help represent Reformation at this community service project!

Reformation's High School Youth Group will be serving at the 9:00-12:00 shift on March 9. If you prefer the afternoon, there is a shift from 12:30-3:30 when Reformation folks are welcome to serve. Reformation's Christian Service Committee encourages you to get involved! **Please sign up on the website listed below for whichever shift suits your schedule.**

If you'd like to carpool to Sussex Central High School from Reformation, please e-mail Pastor Paige (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net). To volunteer, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/RAH-Sussex-2024>. There are two three hour packing sessions on March 9: **9:00-12:00 and 12:30-3:30**. This is an event in which adults, children and youth can participate.

**Electronic Giving:** Did you know that when you give electronically, Reformation is charged a fee? When you give at [www.rlcmilford.com/give](http://www.rlcmilford.com/give) you will be given the **option** to add an additional 1.9% of your donation to your contribution to help defray some of the electronic giving fee. Thank you for your generous support of Reformation's ministries!

**Give By Text:** You can make a financial gift to Reformation by sending a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and follow the instructions you receive back. However you give, your support matters! Thank you!

**Sign Up for Church News!** If you aren't receiving Reformation news through Constant Contact, please send an email to Pastor Eric at pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on at Reformation.

**Happy Birthday to:** Susan Carpenter on the 29th, Scott Rainville on the 30th, Gail Kelso on the 31st, Steve Venett on the 1st, Lida Gannon on the 2nd, and Emerick Miller on the 3rd.